
VII. ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES AND SITE INTERPRETATION

The area investigated during the archaeological study is situated on the north side of the Deep River within Chatham County, immediately east of the U.S. Highway 1 bridge which crosses over the river and north of the Lockville canal (Figures 4, 5 and 6). The river and canal run in a generally east-west direction at this location, while the bridges are roughly oriented north-south. The archaeological study area bisects the canal and the boundaries of the Lockville Lock, Dam and Powerhouse historic property. The total study area includes approximately 1.1 acres. The study area is best described in four parts: (1) the Ramsey's Mill Site (Between Deep River and Lockville Canal), (2) the General Lockville Community Area (Canal and Area to North), (3) the John Barringer House Site, and (4) the Store Remains along the lower terrace (Figure 5).

Ramsey's Mill Site (Between Deep River and Lockville Canal): Investigations and Interpretations

The southern part of the study area consists of a narrow strip of riverside land between the Deep River and the Lockville Canal (Figure 3). The riverbank rises gradually from the steam channel in this area and joins a narrow terrace beside the canal. The riverbank and terrace have been heavily modified by the construction of Ramsey's Mill. Foundations of the mill still exist. West of the mill foundations, in and around the existing U.S. Highway 1 bridge, the landscape has been heavily altered by earth moving associated with the construction of the highway bridge in the 1960s.

Two types of ground cover were present in this portion of the study area (Figure 16). The area near the existing highway bridge contained thick underbrush, representing approximately 25 years of growth after the construction of the bridge in the late 1960s. The eastern edge of the study area, the area where impacts had not been anticipated, including the area where the ruins of Ramsey's Mill are located, was forested. Some of the larger trees in this area were two to three feet in diameter, suggesting they are 80 or more years in age. All of these areas were cleared of vegetation by construction crews in anticipation of using the area for a construction staging area (materials storage). The vegetation, some of it quite thick, was raked out using a bulldozer and backhoe. Approximately 6 to 10 inches of topsoil was loosened during the clearing, which exposed the stone foundations of Ramsey's Mill (Figure 17).

The foundations of Ramsey's Mill and an associated walled terrace are found on a narrow strip of land south of the canal's towpath. The mill seat is marked by a rectangular set of stone foundations situated on a sloped area above a large pond. Extending northward from the mill foundations is a large level terrace bounded on the east by a stone retaining wall and on the south by the north mill foundation. The ruins of Ramsey's Mill were only briefly investigated. Although the ruins fall within the construction impact zone, the area will be used largely for equipment storage and most of the ruins will be left intact. A major excavation of the Ramsey's Mill ruins would require weeks of archaeological investigation aided by large earth moving

equipment. The limited investigations conducted at the site in this investigation provide some basic, though important, data about Ramsey's Mill.

The slope where the mill foundation walls are located is stepped with the upper bench formed by the north foundation wall of the mill and the lower step formed by the southern foundation wall (Figure 16). Circular metal bands were found sticking out of the eroded lower step of the ruin (Figure 17c). These were bandings around the stone mill wheels which were previously removed. A 14-foot long section of the north wall was exposed at the structure's northeast corner (Figures 17 a and b). The excavation in this area extended to a depth of 3 feet. The wall is approximately two feet thick. Stones used in the construction included roughly cut blocks and irregular shapes. The stones are tightly joined and mortared. A second exposure, 4-foot long, was made along the western side of this wall (Figure 16 and 17a).

The southern stone foundation line, situated immediately above the mill's tail race, is lower than the north wall (Figure 16a, b). An 8-foot section of the foundation near the middle of the structure was exposed in excavations. This exposure extended only about 3 feet deep. The southeastern corner of the structure was discernible even though it was grown over in weeds and covered with soil. Although this corner was not excavated, it is clear that this corner and the northeast corner of the upper foundation wall are connected by a north-south stone foundation which delineates the eastern side of the mill.

The pond to the south of the mill foundation represents the tail race, or splash pond, of the mill (Figure 16a). It drained to the east and southeast toward the Deep River. The pond originally was much bigger than it is today, and Barringer's Mill was located along its western side (Figure 18). The pond was partially filled when the existing highway bridge was constructed in the early 1960s.

The overall dimensions of the mill foundation were determined to be 22 feet north-south by at least 50 feet east-west. The western ends of the foundations, where they extended into the bridge alignment, were covered with earth or damaged by previous construction so the precise east-west foundation lengths are not known.

The only known photographs of Ramsey's Mill (Figures 19 and 20) are believed to date from the first decade of the twentieth century, although they could date a decade or two earlier (Hadley et al. 1976; Mudge 1957). Both photographs were apparently taken at the same time. The perspective is from the Lockville Canal tow path, facing southward. The pictured facade is the northern side of the building (side opposite from the river and the tail race). In Figure 19, the river can be seen through the trees in the background to the left side of the building. No evidence of the water wheel is visible in the photograph. It is suspected that the wheel was on the southern side of the building although it is possible the wheel works were located on the western end of the building. The photograph shows stone and wood foundation piers extending high above the foundation walls, leaving an open subfloor beneath the building. The stone foundations documented archaeologically essentially conform to the shape of the building. The level ground terrace on the near side of the pictured building is still intact and visible today.

With information taken from the photograph, other documentary sources and the archaeological evidence, it is possible to offer a summary description of Ramsey's Mill. The mill was a 3 or 3-1/2 story structure, rectangular in shape, measuring approximately 22 feet deep (north-south) by 50 to 60 feet in length. The building had a simple, though large, shed roof with a north-south centerline. The building was sited at the southern edge of a piece of terraced, leveled ground, south of the canal towpath. The southern side of the building was built above the edge of a tail race which flowed southeastward into the Deep River. The structure was elevated on stone and wood piers, and had an open subfloor. The terrace on the northern side of the building (toward the towpath and canal) was probably used for loading and other activities, and, according to the 1876 Lockville plat map, this terrace was accessed by a bridge placed over the Lockville Canal (Figure 18).

Six mill stones were salvaged from the site in the late 1950s (Figure 10), so there were at least three pair of grinding stones in Ramsey's Mill, perhaps more. The general procedure used in most grist mills was to unload grain or corn into an upper level of the milling for sifting and cleaning, then with the aid of gravity, work the grains downward to a storage level, then pass the grain through hoppers to a grinding and bagging level. Exactly how the interior of Ramsey's Mill was configured is not known, but Figures 21 and 22 illustrate a typical grist mill construction from the mid-nineteenth century that was probably similar in operation to Ramsey's Mill. The illustrated example was constructed on the Occoquam River in Virginia (Evans 1850:285 & Plate XXII). This example had six pairs of grinding stones. It also had screw grain elevators which may not have been present at Ramsey's Mill. In Figure 22, one can see that the grain was taken to the upper level of the structure (F), where it is sifted and cleaned, then stored within another upper level (K), before being introduced to the grinding stones (M) through hoppers (L). Ramsey's Mill probably operated in a similar way.

It is suspected that Ramsey's Mill was rebuilt or renovated at least once during its lengthy history. Most likely, the mill constructed in the 1770s was rebuilt or enlarged in the 1820s or 1830s. However, this interpretation has not been substantiated by historical evidence, so the ruins of Ramsey's Mill could actually represent a late eighteenth century construction.

At the time of the 1996 archaeological investigation, the portion of the mill site to be disturbed by the bridge construction was limited to the western edge of the stone foundations and the western part of the tail race. Trees and other vegetation were cleared to a point at the eastern edge of the mill foundations and associated terrace, but most of this area will only be used for equipment storage during construction and the archaeological remains will be left in place. Thus, most of the remains of Ramsey's Mill will not be exposed, and most of the ruins will likely survive the bridge construction project.

The Lockville Community Area (Canal and Area to North)

This part of the archaeological study area is north of the canal (Figures 23 and 24). Paralleling the north side of the canal at a slightly higher elevation is a roadbed. North of the roadbed, at a slightly higher elevation is an elevated ridge, or mound, of intact soil. Extending

northward from the ridge is a low, generally level terrace, measuring approximately 80 feet in length (north-south) by approximately 60 feet in width. The terrace is defined on its north and east sides by a massive stone retaining wall. Upslope from the retaining walls are additional retaining walls and terraces which eventually merge into the steep hillside. Various terraces, walls and other minor features are described individually below in position from south to north. The retaining walls are assigned numbers so they can be accurately referred to in the feature descriptions below. Table 1 summarizes the individual feature designations.

Lockville Canal and Towpath: The Lockville Canal is approximately 60 feet wide in the archaeological study area. The banks of this section of the canal appear to be earthen and no obvious evidence of wooden canal sides or lock structures was observed. The tow path is located on the south side of the canal. It is approximately 20 feet wide, and elevated above the surrounding natural land surface (Figure 25a). The towpath is used today as an access road. It extends along the length of the canal. No detailed archaeological documentation of the canal or towpath was attempted as these features were not going to be impacted by the bridge replacement project.

Canal Street (Roadbed and Railbed): Running parallel to and on the north side of the canal is a roadbed. The bed is grown over with trees and other vegetation but it is easily distinguishable on the landscape. A footpath extends eastward along the road trace through the wooded area. The highway in use during the late eighteenth and most of the nineteenth centuries crossed the Deep River at a point approximately 300 feet east of Ramsey's Mill. A bridge was built at this location quite early, and a very substantial covered bridge was in place by the 1850s (Figure 11). A truss bridge also was built over the Lockville Canal after the canal was constructed in the 1850s (Deed Book AU:409). The main road appears to have continued north up the hill, then west, passing by Ramsey's Tavern. From the north side of the canal, the road also branched east and west. The road extended west and paralleled the canal for about 400 feet, then turned northwest up the hill in front of Ramsey's Mill. It probably joined the other branch at the top of the hill by Ramsey's Tavern, and then continued westward toward Pittsboro. Additional traces of the old roadbed survive on the west side of US Highway 1.

The section of the road extending east-west along the north side of the canal was being called Canal Street during the 1870s (Figure 18) and possibly earlier. A bridge crossed the canal above (north of) Ramsey's Mill, allowing access to the industrial site. In 1860 or 1861, a rail line was built within the road bed, essentially following the route of the modern gravel road that approaches the project area from the east (Figure 18). The tracks paralleled the canal and extended westward past Ramsey's Mill. Tracks occupied the roadbed from about 1861 through the remainder of the nineteenth century.

This road was observed archaeologically in the drainage ditch excavated along the west side of the archaeological study area. It was evidenced by a layer of blackened, gravel surfacing. The gravel probably is ballast from the rail line.

Table 1. List of Landscape Features and Designated Features Documented In Project Area North of Canal (Compare with Figures 5 and 23).

Landscape Features (south to north)

Canal
Towpath
Road and Rail Bed
Store Mound
Lower Terrace
Wall 1
Cellar
Well
First Terrace
Wall 2
Second Terrace
Upper Slope

Designated Features

- Feature 1. East-West Line of Brick Pavers Between Second Terrace and Upper Slope.
 - Feature 2. Concrete Green House Foundation.
 - Feature 3. Concrete Slab.
 - Feature 4. Lightning Rod
 - Feature 5. Brick Walkway on Western Side of First Terrace, Extending Upslope To Second Terrace
 - Feature 6. Concrete Driveway On First Terrace
 - Feature 7. Pier Imprint in Soil On First Terrace
 - Feature 8. Outbuilding Depression, Upper Slope
 - Feature 9. Rock Pile, Outbuilding Remains, Upper Slope
 - Feature 10. Rectangular Pattern of Stones on Eastern Side of House Mound
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Low Mound and Store Site: North of the roadbed, running east-west, is a low, linear mound of intact natural earth (Figures 4 -6, 23, 25a,b,c, and 26). A wood frame store was built on this location in the nineteenth century and the store remained standing until the second or third decade of the twentieth century. The archaeological investigation of this area is described separately below. It is important to note here that the low mound was not artificially constructed. An explanation of this landscape feature is given in the description of the lower terrace presented below.

Lower Terrace: This is a large, nearly level area surrounded on its north and east sides by a massive stone retaining wall (Wall 1) (Figures 4 - 6, 23, 28a, b, c). A linear mound or ridge of earth is present along the south margin of the terrace. Reddish-brown clay soil has been spread over a large part of the terrace north of the mound. The fill is believed to originate from

construction of the Highway 1 bridge in the 1960s. The original surface of the terrace, still exposed along the eastern and northern edge of the terrace, was quite low. A well is present in the northern side of the terrace (Figure 23, 28c, 29a,b). The terrace was extensively probed, and later explored by grader cuts, but no evidence of structures or substantial activity areas were found within the terrace.

This low terrace is believed to be a remnant of a natural slough, or overflow channel, associated with the Deep River. The upstream (western) part of this slough is still visible west of US Highway 1. The slough carried overflow river water during times of flooding. Water moving through the slough would have scoured and eroded the base of the hillside along the north side of the slough. The low mound of intact soil located along the south side of the lower terrace was spared from scouring because it was on the inside of the water flow.

The slough interpretation helps explain why the lower hillside within the north side of the study area was heavily terraced and why the massive retaining wall (Wall 1) was constructed at this location. Before the locks and dam were constructed in the 1850s, the slough served as an overflow channel for flood waters. Ramsey's Mill was sited near the eastern end of this slough. The Lockville canal was built to the south of the slough channel and after its construction, the canal served as the overflow channel for flood waters. The remaining slough channel probably was a low, poorly drained, wet and muddy area. The base of the hill slope along the north edge of the slough channel likely was a ragged, eroded bank, that was subject to severe erosion by runoff from the hill above.

Despite its poor natural condition, the proximity of the slough channel to Ramsey's Mill and the other parts of the lock and dam complex made this potentially valuable land if it could be improved and utilized. To make use of the property, a massive stone retaining wall (Wall 1) was built along the north and east edges of the slough, at the base of this hillside. The wall was recessed several feet into the base of the hill. A cavity also was dug at least 20 feet into the base of the hill slope to permit the construction of a subterranean cellar (this feature is described in detail later in this section of the report). The hill slope to the north of the retaining wall also was terraced and a house was constructed on the first terrace (described in detail below). The low wet area in front (south) of the wall also was drained and made functional. A well was excavated in this low area. Eventually a line of stores was constructed along the southern edge of the terrace on the elevated mound of earth situated next to the old road. All of this work at the base of the hill would have served to stabilize the hillside and make the area usable. It is believed this construction occurred in the 1850s as part of the development of Lockville by the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company.

The end result of all this land modification was a functional lower terrace situated next to the canal and the old roadway. Exactly how the lower terrace between the stores and miller's house was used is not known. It has been suggested, because of the presence of the well, that it was a stabling and resting station for horses and mules hauling wagons to the nearby mill. However, this has not been confirmed by historical records. The cellar may have been used as a cool storage area for commercial enterprises at Lockville. In general, this interpretation helps explain why so much effort was expended to build stone retaining walls and terraces at this

location, which essentially resulted in an extensive re-landscaping of the industrial center of the Lockville community.

Stone Retaining Wall 1: Except for the canal, this wall is the most prominent feature in the archaeological study area (Figure 4-6, 23, 28, and 29). It extends east-west for a length of approximately 70 feet before joining a north-south wall along the east side of the lower terrace. The eastern wall marks the eastern limits of the archaeological investigation. The entrance to a large subterranean cellar is present at the corner formed by these walls (Figures 23, 28a,b and 29a) (described below). The northern section of the wall is approximately 8 feet high. The eastern section ranges from 8 feet at its north end to 2.5 feet on its south end. The south end connects with another east-west retaining wall which extends eastward outside the archaeological study area (parallel to and along the north side of the roadbed).

The stones used in the wall construction are irregular shaped, natural field stones (Figure 29). Most are generally blocky or tabular in form. The stone construction is tight, and mortar was used to hold the stones in place. There is evidence that a set of steps originally extended down the face of the north wall to the lower terrace (Figure 29). The steps were apparently built into the wall when it was originally constructed. The steps are no longer present, but the broken stone and repaired area where they existed can be observed (Figure 29a). It appears the north and east sections of Wall 1 were constructed simultaneously when the Cape Fear Navigation Company made improvements to the area between 1852 and 1857.

First Terrace: This is the elevated, level area between the large stone retaining wall (Wall 1) and a smaller stone and brick retaining wall (Wall 2) located 35 feet to the north (Figures 4-6, 28 a-d, and 29b). Situated on this terrace are two very large surface features, the top of the subterranean cellar and a concrete slab drive dating from the twentieth century. A house structure (Barringer House) was built on the terrace (investigation and description provide later in this section of the report). This terrace was formed by cutting soil and leveling fill from the hillside.

Retaining Wall 2: This wall is located approximately 35 feet north of the east-west section of Wall 1 and forms the northern side of the first terrace (Figures 23, 24, 28 and 30a). The wall is made of stone and brick, and is generally two to four feet in height. The mixture of brick and stone suggests its was rebuilt over time. Portions of the wall have collapsed but the general run of the wall is easily distinguished. The eastern end of the wall is the most prominent part of the wall. Here it joins another north-south wall section which defines the eastern side of the first terrace. The resulting corner was made of brick and functioned as a corner foundation for the Barringer House. The wall along the eastern side of the first terrace extends downslope, and is stepped at several points along the way. Both the east-west and north-south sections of Wall 2 were utilized as foundations for the house. Additional details of this wall are provided in the Barringer House description later in this section of the report.

Second Terrace: This sloped terrace is north of Wall 2 (Figures 4-6, 23-24). It is defined on its north edge by a long pavement of non-mortared bricks laid flat on the hillside (Feature 1). This feature served to retard erosion from the hillside above, and it also marks the limits of the rear yard of the Barringer House site. The sloped terrace was created with only minor cutting into

the hillside. Also present at the east end of this terrace is a subsurface concrete box feature (described below).

Upper Slope: This part of the site extends northward from the second terrace to the top of the hill (Figures 4-6, 23-24, and 28a). It is wooded and the ground slope is mostly natural, except for a couple of depressions and rock piles which mark former outbuilding locations (described below). A trace of an old road is present at the top of the hill. This road originally extended by Ramsey's Tavern, and farther west across the area where the highway road cut is located.

Store Remains, Lower Terrace: Investigation and Interpretations

The remains of a store were located at the south edge of the lower terrace about 90 feet north of the canal (Figure 23, 24, 25 b,c,d, 26a,b,c, and 27). The store site was evidenced by a humped ridge or elongated mound of intact soil measuring approximately 50 feet (east-west) by 35 feet. A large pond was present on the east end of this ridge (Figure 23). The lower terrace immediately north of the mound contained one to three feet of reddish brown clay fill, believed to be put there during bridge construction in the 1960s.

When first discovered, the humped ridge of soil and associated stones obviously represented some kind of activity area or structure, but there was no clear indication of how the area was used. Only after the completion of several excavation units along the north edge of the mound, and the discovery of buried stone pier footings, did it become clear that a structure used to occupy the area.

The buried stone footings were first detected by using 1/4-inch corers and tile probes. A series of excavation units along the northern edge of the mound eventually revealed a series of pier footings (Figure 27). Descriptions of the excavation units are summarized in Table 1. The original ground surface was detected in the units, ranging from 0.5 to 3.0 deep from east to west. The fill was deeper farther to the west. From the location of the stone pier footings, it is apparent that the structure extended out over the low ground, and there would have been enough space under the edge of the building to store items.

Additional foundation stones were found relatively undisturbed on top of the mound. The foundation stones in the eastern end of the mound form a rough rectangle, designated Feature 10 (Figure 27). This is interpreted to reflect the location of floor joists, or perhaps an entire bay (room) of the structure.

After mapping all of the foundation stones, it became evident that a fairly large structure used to be located at this locality. The evidence suggested the building measured roughly 50 by 30 feet. The building was sited directly on the mound feature with the long axis extending east-west. The exact length of the structure could not be determined because the western side of this locality has been damaged by previous earth-moving activities. The structure was apparently a wood frame construction, as no substantial quantities of building stone or brick were found, and the

structure appeared to have sat on low footing stones and piers which rested on large stone pier footings.

Table 2. Information About Excavation Units In and Around Store Mound.

Unit No.	Size (feet)	Depth (feet)	Fill Type	Results
1	2.5 x 2.5	.5	Reddish Clay Loam	encountered large stone
2	5 x 5	.6	Reddish Clay Loam	encountered pier footing
3	2 x 9	1.0	Reddish Clay Loam	encountered large stone footing
4	1 x 2	1.5	Reddish Clay Loam	encountered old ground surface
5	2.5 x 8.5	2.5	Reddish Clay Loam	exposed old ground surface
6	3.5 x 2.5	3	Reddish Clay Loam	exposed old ground surface
7	2 x 9	3	Reddish Clay Loam	exposed old ground surface
8	3 x 5	.3	No Fill, Intact Soil, Shallow Humus	Exposed pier stone
9	4.5 x 4.5	.4	No Fill, Intact Soil Shallow Humus	Exposed pier stone
10	7 x 12	.4	No Fill, Intact Soil, Shallow Humus	few loose stone
11	3.5 x 5 grader and hand exc.	1.5	Reddish Clay Loam	Pier Footings
12	5 x 9 grader and hand exc.	2.0	Reddish Clay Loam	Pier Footings and Former Ground Surface

The function of the structure was identified when a local resident, Mr. Sam Womble, visited the site. He used to live in the Barringer House on the hillside to the north of this spot (described below), and as a child (1920s) he remembered a row of wood frame stores at this location. The east end of the line of stores corresponded with the alignment of the retaining wall (Wall 1) along the east side of the lower terrace. The row of stores, with shed porches, faced the canal. Mr. Womble recalled there being a hardware store, grocery store and shoe store. The store may have been a single building, comprised of three or four bays. The store would have been situated directly beside Canal Street (old roadway) and the rail line that paralleled the canal.

There is considerable historical evidence of commercial establishments at Lockville. Branson's Business Directories and the North Carolina Directories list the following merchants at Lockville:

1867-68 I.N. Clegg, Dry Goods Store
 J.A. Long, Dry Goods Store

1869 A. Long, Merchant

Bynum & Lambeth Merchants
list of merchants at Lockville (continued)

- 1872 A.J. Bynum
 Ed Long
 Moffit & Parham
 Pegram
 A. Yarborough
- 1877-78 Powell & Crutchfield
 Parham & Mann
 M..J. Stone
 W.B. Wilkie
 A.M. Yarborough
- 1884 John Barringer
 Parham & Mann
 Moore & Walden
- 1890 John Barringer, Merchant
 Farmer's Alliance Store
- 1896 John Barringer
 S. Jordon & Sons
- 1902 John Barringer
 J.J. Womble
- 1905 Mary Barringer
 Lambeth Brothers

Some of the merchants who occupied the store buildings can be identified. Historic deeds records show the transferral of lots 42, 43, 44 and 45 at Lockville (Figure 18), the lots within the NCDOT study area, to John Barringer between 1879 and 1885. John Barringer begins to be listed as a merchant in the Business Directories above in 1884, so it can be inferred that he occupied one of the stores by about 1880. Lot 42 was previously owned by J.A. Long, who is listed as a merchant as early as 1867, while other Longs are listed as merchants (brothers or sons?) through 1872. This certainly represents at least two generations of shop owners in Lockville.

Lots farther to the east along the canal were owned by J.A. Parham as of 1876. A Parham is listed as a merchant in 1877 and 1884, and perhaps J.A. Parham was a merchant who occupied one of the stores through the 1870s and late mid-1880s. It is known that J.A. Parham lived in a house north of his canal front lots. The Parham House still stands today.

Given the record of merchants in these stores, it seems likely that the store building on this site was constructed as early as the 1850s, contemporaneously with the construction of the lock and dam. Stores certainly were in place by the end of the Civil War. Perhaps the building of the railroad tracks along Canal Street in 1861 was a stimulus for the appearance of the stores. It is suspected the stores were in place prior to the Civil War. If this interpretation is correct, the wood frame store building was utilized at least for 60 years (1860-1920) before it was razed.

John Barringer House Site and Related Features: Investigation and Interpretation:

House. One of the major archaeological features located on the terraced hillside north of the canal is the remains of the John Barringer House (Figures 5-6, 23-24 and 28a,b,c, and d). Mr. John Barringer was an immigrant from Germany (originally Behringer) who arrived in the United States in 1853. He fought with the Confederate Army during the Civil War, but returned to Chatham County after the war to work in milling. He

.... bought the old Bland Mill on Haw River. Two weeks after he made the purchase the dam washed out. So, when the people of the Lockville community offered him \$600 a year to run Ramsey Mill, he agreed. It was some years later that he bought Burns Mill in that community and operated it himself (Mudge 1957:16).

Barringer lived in the house north of the canal throughout the latter part of the nineteenth century. The house was occupied until the 1960s when it was razed. From deeds records it appears that Barringer acquired the house property (lots 41 through 44 in Figure 18) between 1879 and 1885 (Deeds Books BN:155; BN:153; AZ:329; BP:533). One of these lots (#42) was sold to Barringer by Nancy and Edwin Long, believed to be descendants of J.A. Long who is believed to have been a merchant at Lockville (Deed Books BN:155; BP:533). Long is documented to be at Lockville by 1867. It is likely the house predates this considerably, probably as early as the 1850s when the lock and canal were being constructed at Lockville. It should be noted that lots 40 and 41 shown on the 1876 Lockville plat map are believed to lie within the right of way road cut west of the archaeological study area (compare Figures 18 and 23).

The archaeological evidence for the house is substantial, and includes partial foundations, a foundation pier imprint, concrete slab entrance landings, a brick walkway which terminated at the back side of the house, a defined yard and a twentieth-century driveway, all situated on the first and second hillside terraces (Figure 23). When the archaeological study began, it was not known if the ruins in this part of the site represented a house or some other type of structure. The archaeological features indicated that the north side of the structure rested on an east-west stone and brick foundation wall (Wall 2), the same wall that divides the second and third hillside terraces. The western part of this wall is primarily made of stone while the eastern end is mostly brick (Figure 30). One large section near the center of the wall line was collapsed at the time of the investigation. The east end of the wall joins a north-south segment of foundation wall which supported the eastern side of the structure. The eastern wall extends down the slope approximately 60 feet and ties in with the corner of Wall 1.

Intact foundation walls for the west and south side of the structure were not found, suggesting that part of the structure was supported by piers or short segments of foundation wall which had been removed. A distinct, rectangular depression, obviously the footing of a structural pier, was located near the center of the first terrace (Figure 23). A concrete driveway extended to within a few feet of the pier imprint (Figure 23 and 30b), and it appeared the imprint marked a structural corner. Evidence to support this also was found along Wall 2, where the tie-in (in deteriorated condition) for the western wall of the structure were detected.

The most prominent section of foundation is located at the northeast corner of Terrace 2 where the north and east foundation walls join (Figure 30a). Here the foundation wall is 3.5 to 4 feet in height. The wall is made of brick and stone with a thin covering of cement pargetting. Vertical wood beam imprints are present in the pargetting material, clearly showing where upright posts supported the northeast corner of the structure. Along the north, exterior side of this foundation was the buried (grounded) base of a lightning rod (Feature 4, Figure 23). The lightning rod would have extended down the exterior wall of the structure, thus confirming the location of the exterior wall.

Based on the foundation evidence, it became apparent that a structure measuring at least 45 by 35 feet used to occupy the first terrace. Other features helped confirm its size and provided evidence that the structure was indeed a house. The end of a brick walkway (not mortared) was found to terminate abruptly at Wall 2, at a point where the north exterior wall of the house was located (Figures 30c, d). From this, the location of a door was inferred. The brick walkway was traced westward, down around the edge of the hill, to the level of Terrace 1 (Figure 23). Another prominent feature was an irregular shaped concrete driveway pad on the western side of Terrace 1 (Figures 23 and 30b). Straight edges along the eastern side of the feature showed where the western edge of the house structure was located.

The eastern side of the house was further defined by the presence of two large concrete features along the eastern foundation (Figure 23). One was a square concrete pad which served either as a step landing or a drain support. The second was a rectangular, concrete walled pit. This was found to be filled with earth and trash, mostly items of mid-twentieth century vintage. One corner of the feature was dug out to determine its depth, which turned out to be approximately 5 feet. The feature was found have a concrete floor. This feature was not easily interpreted. It appeared too deep to have been used for a pump house or storage compartment. Some thought was given to it being a water reservoir, or even a fish pond. However, its function was finally identified when Sam Womble, a former resident of the house, recalled that it was used during the mid-20th century as a hothouse for plants.

Despite convincing archaeological evidence that this was a house, several questions about the overall shape and height of the structure remained. Additional details about the house became available when a photograph of the house was found (Figure 31). The photograph, possibly taken in the 1940s or 1950s, and published in a November 2, 1957, edition of the *Sanford Herald*, was part of an article on the history of Lockville and Ramsey's Mill. The house is identified as the Barringer House, and a photograph of the former resident was provided (Figure 32). Still more

information about the house was obtained from Mr. Sam Womble, grandson of Mr. Barringer, who remembered living in the house during the 1920s.

The newspaper photograph shows the house from the southeast corner (Figure 31). It can be seen that the house has two wings. A one-story A-frame construction is located in the foreground, with the long axis of the wing oriented north-south. The front of the house, and a porch, faced to the east. The south end of this wing, resting on high piers, lines up with Wall 1. This wing was situated directly over the subterranean cellar located beneath the first terrace (see cellar discussion below). A fairly high crawl space is present under the house. A narrow porch is also attached to the west side (facing west) of the structure.

Another wing of the house extends east-west behind (west of) the north-south wing. It is a two-story structure. The side facing southward appears to have an enclosed porch on the second floor. The ground floor of this wing appears to have been enclosed, although this aspect of the photograph is not clear.

Combining archaeological and photographic evidence, we find that the Barringer House was an L-shaped, wood frame structure which contained both one-story and two-story sections (Figure 23). Porches were present on the east and west sides of the one-story section. The front of the house, at least during the latter years of its habitation, faced east. It is suspected that the Barringer House was built as the result of two separate construction episodes. The older portion is probably the two-story, “back” wing which is oriented east-west. Although evidence to confirm this has not been found, it is suspected this structure was built in the 1850s, around the time the Lockville Canal was being built and the hillside area was being improved with the construction of retaining walls. The east-west orientation of the back wing matches that of the retaining walls and the canal. The north-south wing, the one-story section, is a triple-A style structure of the type commonly built in the 1880s through 1930s. This wing likely was added to the structure in the 1870s or 1880s when Lockville was undergoing substantial improvements sponsored by the Lobdell Companies.

Another major feature associated with the miller’s house site is a brick retaining structure (Feature 1) which marks the north side of the third (upslope) terrace on the hillside (Figure 23). This feature extends east-west in a nearly straight line across the hillside. It is made of two to four lines of bricks, laid flat, running across the slope. The feature conforms to the natural slope of the hillside. Several trees have grown up along the line. It is believed this feature served to retard erosion and runoff into the back side of the house, and define the back yard of the house.

Subterranean Cellar. An underground cellar room is present on the north side of the lower terrace, beneath Terrace 1 (Figures 23 and 28 a, b and 29a, b). The cellar is accessed through an opening in the stone retaining wall (Wall 1) along the north edge of the lower terrace. No door is currently present, although there could have been one when it was in use. The cellar measures 16 by 10 feet. The interior walls are made of stone and brick and the ceiling, also made of brick, is slightly vaulted (arched) (Figures 33). Iron ventilation pipes extend through the ceiling to the open terrace above. Iron hooks hang from the interior of the ceiling. The floor surface is

cement. A square concrete pad is present in the northeast corner of the room. This appears to be a support for some type of machinery, or perhaps a water tank or pump.

The cellar was situated directly beneath the north-south wing of the John Barringer House. Sam Womble, grandson of John Barringer, and a former resident of the house, remembers going into the cellar as an adolescent to turn on a pump which provided water into the house above. This would have been between the years 1910 to 1920. He had no recollection of actually storing items in the cellar or using it for cooling purposes.

Whether this cellar was originally constructed as a part of the Barringer residence, or as a part of the Lockville commercial complex remains problematical. It was definitely constructed at the same time as the lower retaining wall, which is believed to date from the 1850s when the lock and dam system was constructed and the overall hillside is believed to have been terraced. The substantial size and configuration of the cellar suggests it had some commercial or industrial function, perhaps being used to store dairy, meat or other products that were being sold in nearby stores, or products to be shipped downstream by boat. However, this interpretation has yet to be confirmed through historic records.

Well. A well is present on the lower terrace beside the retaining wall (Figures 5, 28a,b,c and 29a,b). The well is stone lined from the ground level down. It is approximately 5 feet in diameter. It is probably the same age as the adjacent retaining wall, which is believed to have been constructed around 1850. The well is at least 14 feet deep, and it still contains water to an unknown depth. No excavation of the feature was attempted.

Outbuildings and Road Trace Upslope from House. Upslope from the house site was evidence of two major outbuildings associated with the John Barringer House. One of the structures is evidenced by Feature 8, a large oval depression in the ground (Figure 23). The maximum depth of the depression is two feet. Shovel testing showed the depression to be filled with large pieces of debris (box springs, tin roofing sheets) and a few inches of eroded soil. The depression is not deep enough to have functioned as a full cellar, but it could have been used for subfloor storage. From the size of the depression, it is clear that the outbuilding at this location measured at least 20 by 15 feet. It is presumed the construction was wood frame, and it likely rested on field stone piers, several of which are still present, but its overall shape and function is not known.

The second outbuilding feature, Feature 9, is evidenced by a pile of footing or pier stones (Figure 23). These have been moved from their original locations but they are clustered within a 20x20 foot area west of Feature 8. It is estimated this structure was slightly smaller than the one described above. It too presumably was a wood frame structure but its function remains unknown.

At the top of the hillside, above the outbuilding locations, is a trace of a drive or road. The road trace extends westward from the graveled drive that leads north to the modern trailer home that occupies the hill top. The trace abruptly ends at the cut bank alongside the existing U.S. Highway 1. This is believed to be a trace of the historic road that led to the hilltop location where

Ramsey's Tavern used to be located, the area now within the highway road cut. The trace is aligned with a surviving road trace located on the west side of US 1, which was part of a road leading to Pittsboro.

VIII. SUMMARY OF INTERPRETATIONS & HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Important aspects of the industrial, residential and commercial landscape at the historic Lockville have been archaeologically investigated and documented, resulting in the gathering of much new information about the historic property. The overall size and dimensions of Ramsey's Mill, and how it was sited, has been determined. A prominent terraced hillside, including the remains of a miller's house, and the location of a series of commercial structures (stores) has been identified and documented. Historical records have provided information about the age of construction, function and use of these various features. In general, the investigation has demonstrated that the Lockville community was a fairly large, industrious and prosperous community during most of the last half of the nineteenth century. With the exception of the canal and dam, both very prominent landscape features, few visible traces of the Lockville community remain on the landscape today. A visitor to the site would have difficulty imagining the level of industrial and mercantile activity, and the extent of the residential population, in nineteenth century Lockville.

To summarize the results of the archaeological investigations in a chronological fashion, a table has been prepared which outlines the important phases of historical activity at Ramsey's Mill and Lockville (Table 2). The (known) surviving or documented archaeological remains associated with each historical phase are briefly mentioned, as are historical characteristics of each phase.

While a great deal of information specific to the Lockville-Ramsey's Mill community has been gathered, there remains much to be learned about the Lockville Lock and Dam complex, the Lockville community and Ramsey's Mill. The long history of this important historic property is generally known, and a few specifics about the site have been revealed, but there is much more detailed research that could be accomplished. Given the apparent lack of engineering drawings, and relative scarcity of historical documentation about the site, a comprehensive investigation into the history and technology of the historic complex will ultimately require a continuance of archaeological and historical research. Although a comprehensive study is well beyond the scope of this NCDOT-sponsored archaeological project, the data recovery effort has produced substantial information which will be useful for guiding future research efforts.

Table 3: Summary Culture History of the Ramsey's Mill/Lockville Community With Specific Reference to Archaeological Study Area.

Phase 1: Ramsey's Mill, 1770s to 1849.

General Summary: Ramsey's Mill was focus of small settlement along Deep River; industrial landmark within rich agricultural region of state; mill is situated along major interregional road.

Surviving Archaeological Evidence: Ramsey's Mill ruins.

Phase 2:, Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company, 1849 to 1871.

General Summary: Navigation Company constructs lock and dam system on Pullens Falls and names it Lockville; lock and canal system operates but maintenance is difficult and river travel never develops as hoped; Lockville develops into small community with substantial industry (mills, roller mills, forges, and saw mills); community centered around mills and locks; hillslope north of Ramsey's Mill is heavily modified by terrace and retaining wall construction to accommodate commercial district and house; railroad built into area at onset of Civil War and tracks extend in front of Ramsey's Mill, through the archaeological study area; Lockville continues to operate during Civil War; the forges and rolling mills at Lockville may have been important for supplying the war effort; Ramsey's Mill continues to be center of industrial community.

Surviving Archaeological Evidence: Dam, Canal and Locks; Barringer House, constructed 1850s; Wood frame store structure, constructed 1850s, built facing canal; Landscaping features including massive stone retaining walls, terraced areas, cellar, well and other house associated features; traces of streets, roads and bridge over Deep River.

Surviving Architectural Evidence: Canal, lock and dam; Parham House on hillside northeast of Ramsey's Mill.

Phase 3: Deep River Manufacturing Company/Lobdell Car-Wheel Company, 1871 to 1906.

General Summary: Post-Civil War revival of Lockville community, stimulated by investment and companies of George Lobdell, northern entrepreneur from Delaware; Lock, canal and dam are repaired and Lobdell attempts to develop river travel, primarily as means to ship iron ore from mines to furnaces and forges; Railroad continues to operate; Lockville undergoes considerable revitalization and appears to have experienced considerable growth and development during period 1870-1890; a number of industries are present along the canal, including merchant mills, an iron forge, and a substantial commercial district; residential community develops along with stores and businesses; Lockville continues to function as a town until about 1899, then begins a decline; Ramsey's Mill and Barringer Mill both flood and burn during first decade of twentieth century, and both are abandoned or razed within a few years. Navigation structures sold in 1906 to newly established power company, but it would be another decade or more before power

generation materializes; Lockville survives as a small community into the 1920s.

Surviving Archaeological Features: Canal, Locks, and Dam; Ramsey's Mill; Railroad track bed; Landscaping Improvements north of railroad (cellar, terraces and retaining walls); Barringer House, north-south wing probably added in 1880s or 1890; Stores in commercial strip north of canal.

Table 3 (Continued)

Surviving Architectural Features: Canal, locks, dam; Parham House.

Phase 4: Lockville Power Corporation and Decline of Lockville Community, 1906 to 1920.

General Summary: Power Company purchases canal, lock and dam in 1906 for purpose of generating electric power for use in Pittsboro; power company slow to develop and actual power production never develops; Lockville community survives during first two decades of the century, but community declines rapidly.

Surviving Archaeological Features: Lock, canal and dam; all of investigated area north of canal (store area; Barringer House; Parham House, etc.) continue to be used through this period.

Surviving Architectural Features: Lock, canal and dam; Parham House.

Phase 5: Carolina Power and Light & Private Power Production, 1920 to present.

General Summary: Moncure Manufacturing Company purchases canal and lock and construct hydroelectric generating plant on lock at lower end of canal; power may have been used to power textile or other types of mills built east of NCDOT project area; distribution lines for electricity are extended to Pittsboro; In the mid-1920s, Carolina Power and Light Company purchases generating plant. In 1960s, generating plant is sold to private company; power continues to be produced in 1997 with output being sold to CP&L.

Surviving Archaeological/Architectural Features: Rebuilt lock and generating plant on lower end of canal, east of the NCDOT project area.
